

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed September 24, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness and rejected claims 1, 4-9, and 12-16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Huang et al., A General Purpose Virtual Collaboration Room, IEEE, pages 1-10, 10/1999 (Huang).

By this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 15 and 16 in response to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Accordingly, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 4-9, and 12-16 are currently pending.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 4-9 and 12-16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as unpatentable over Huang. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 recites a combination of features including, among other things, "a virtual object space providing access to a plurality of objects, each object having a set of functionality and being identifiable by a unique identifier provided by the virtual object space, and providing generic object functionality for the plurality of objects including an associations and transactions functionality for relating the plurality of objects and interaction between the plurality of objects, a distribution functionality for locking, flushing, and copying of the virtual object space, and a persistency functionality for maintaining persistency of the plurality of objects."

Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's allegation on page 3 of the Office Action that Huang discloses the "a virtual object space," as recited in claim 1. In particular, the Examiner alleges that Huang at page 9, left column, lines 1-20 discloses the following feature of the claim 1 virtual object space: "a distribution functionality for locking,

flushing, and copying of the virtual object space.” Rather than disclose the noted “distribution functionality” feature of claim 1, Huang merely reveals a so-called “dispatcher.” Specifically, Huang states:

to a shared object is sent the clients who share the object via the coordinator and other assistants. The *recorder* in the room server keeps a record of messages from clients. It creates a log for each alive object and records a whole process of manipulations on the object. The *database* in a room server stores useful room data such as a list of group members, recorded objects, objects in a group case and a private drawer, and others. Each client consists of a *dispatcher*, a set of *objects* on a workspace and a *room manager*. The dispatcher is responsible for sending and receiving messages between the assistant in the room server and the objects or the room manager in the client's side. The room manager, as described before, will manage the workspace and objects, capture and present necessary awareness information, and take correspondent actions after receiving input from a user. When a user exits the room, the client program exits from the user machine and the related assistant is accordingly removed from the room server.

Huang, page 9, left column, lines 1-20. In view of the foregoing, Huang fails to disclose “a virtual object space ... a distribution functionality for locking, flushing, and copying of the virtual object space,” as recited in claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is not anticipated by Huang, and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) of claim 1 and claims 4, 13, and 15, at least by reason of their dependency from independent claim 1, should be withdrawn.

Regarding claim 15, the Examiner alleges that Huang at page 9, right column, lines 1-11 and page 10, left column, lines 21-30 discloses the following feature of claim 15: “implementing the plurality of objects to include a first interface accessible by the framework and a second interface accessible by a service acting as an adapter

between the framework and an application separate from the framework.” However, the noted passages of Huang do not disclose what the Examiner alleges. Instead, those passages generally describe a “Swing and JMF API” and lack any disclosure regarding the “plurality of objects” including “a first interface” and “a second interface” as recited above with respect to claim 15. For this additional reason, claim 15 is not anticipated by Huang, and the rejection of claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should be withdrawn.

Claims 5 and 9, although of different scope, include features similar to those noted above with respect to claim 1. Claims 6-8 depend from claim 5. Claims 12, 14, and 16 depend from claim 9. For at least the reasons given above with respect to claim 1, claims 5-9 and 12-14 are not anticipated by Huang, and the rejection of those claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should be withdrawn.

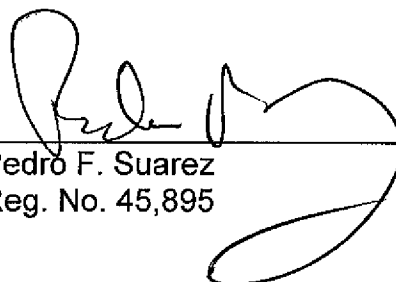
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed in this paper. However, failure to address a specific rejection, issue or comment, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above are not intended to be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

If there are any questions regarding these amendments and remarks, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. No fee is believed to be due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be due, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Reference No. 34874-162/2003P00269US.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 21 December 2007


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